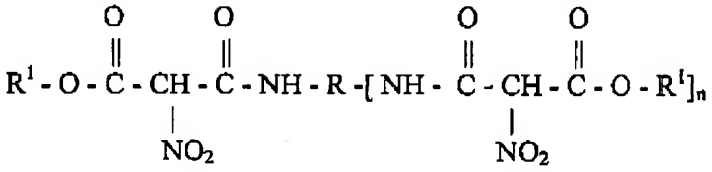
Amendments to Claims

Claim 1-15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (previously presented): A compound having the formula



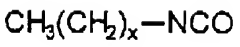
where
R is an unsubstituted or a substituted alkyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, or aromatic group or is derived from an aromatic or aliphatic residue of an isocyanate, diisocyanate, or polyisocyanate compound;
n is 1-10; and
R^1 is a branched or unbranched alkyl.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A nitrile oxide precursor compound according to Claim 1 where R is substituted with alkyl, sulfate, sulfonate, alkoxy, CN, NO_2 or an aromatic group.

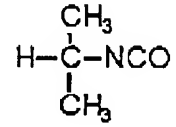
Claim 18 (previously presented): The compound of claim 1 where R is a biphenyl group, fused rings or repeating aromatic groups.

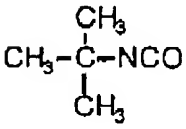
Claim 19 (currently amended): The compound of claim 1 where R is or residue of an isocyanate, diisocyanate, or polyisocyanate compound selected from the group consisting of:

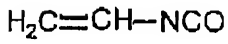
H_3C-NCO

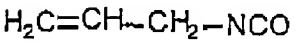


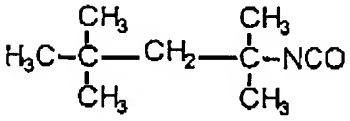
where x is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11 or 17

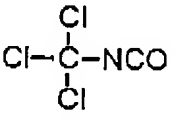


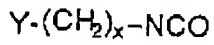




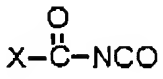




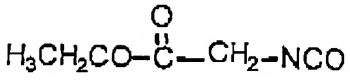


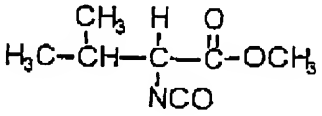


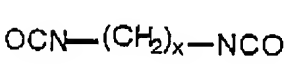
where Y is Br or Cl and x is 2 or 3



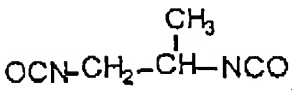
where X is CH_3 CH_2C-, ClH_2C-, Cl_3C-, H_3CH_2CO- or Cl

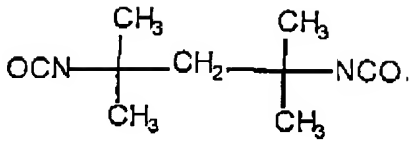


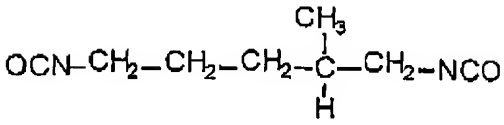


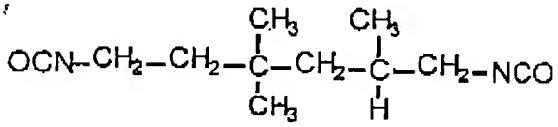


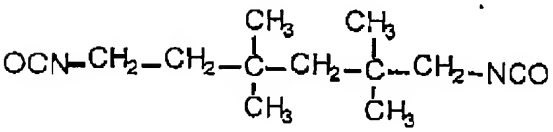
where x is 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10 or 12

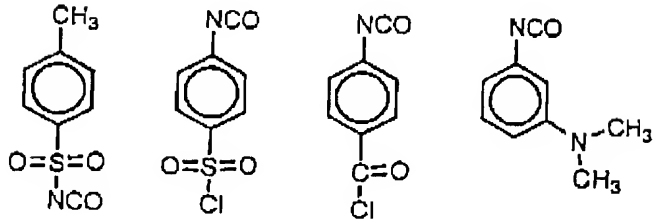


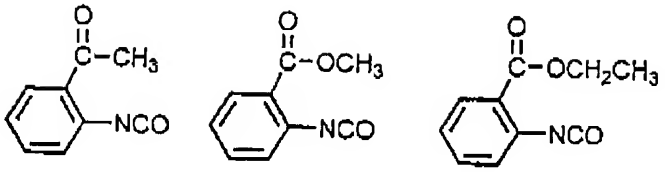


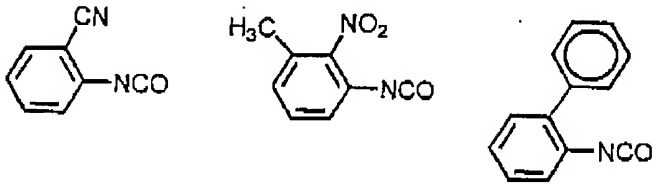


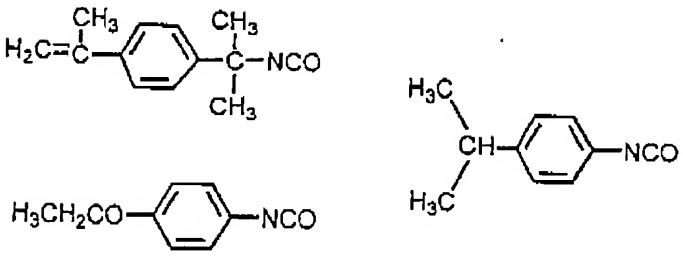


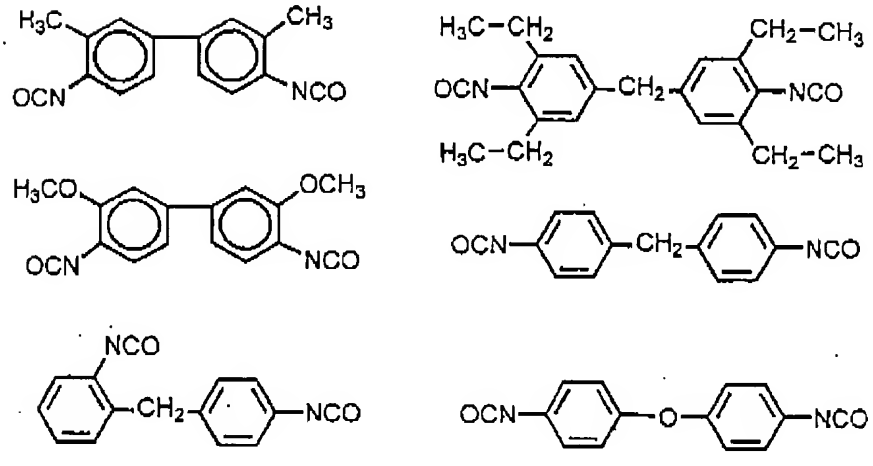


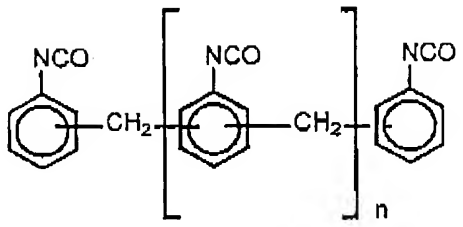




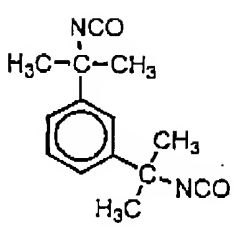


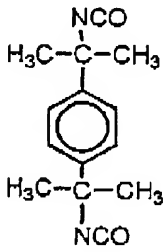


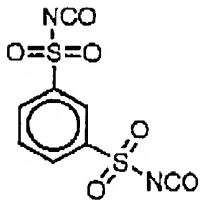


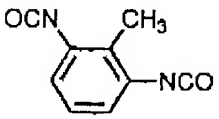


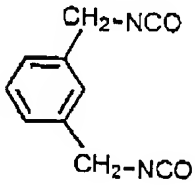
where n is 2, 3 or 4

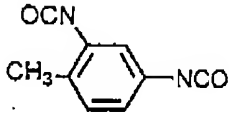


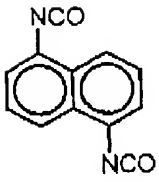


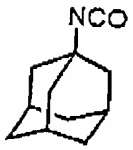


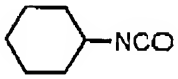


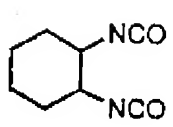


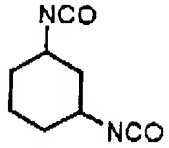


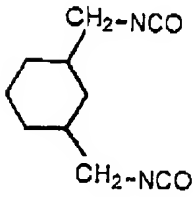


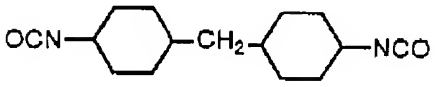


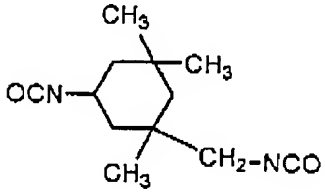


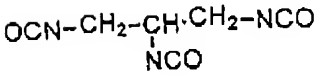


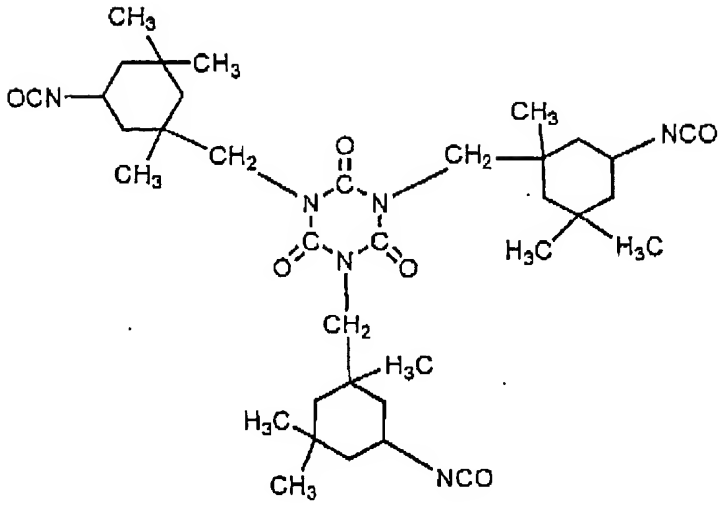


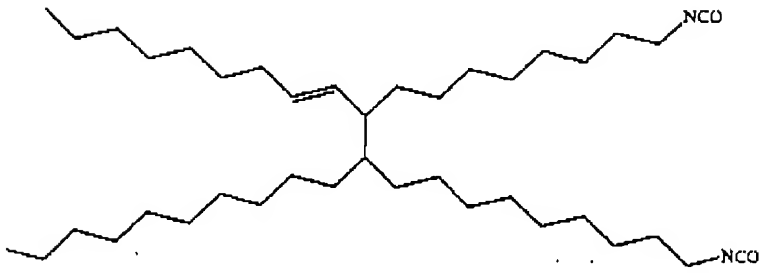












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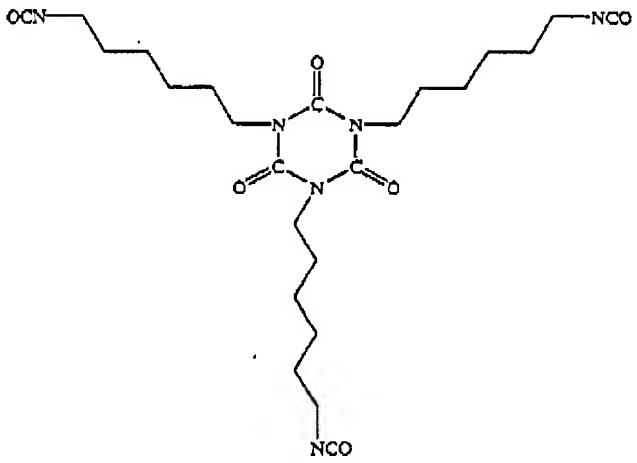
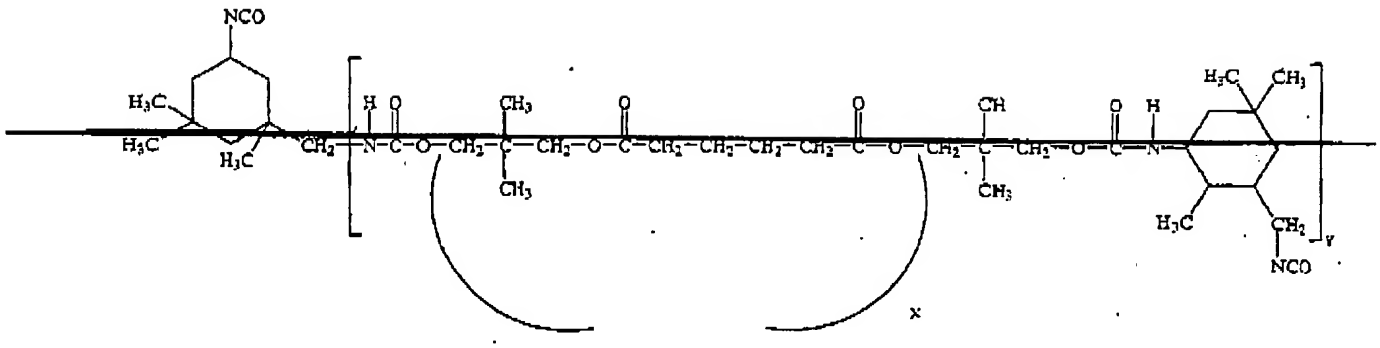


~~and~~

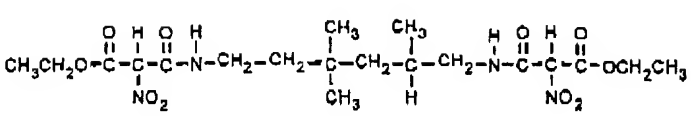


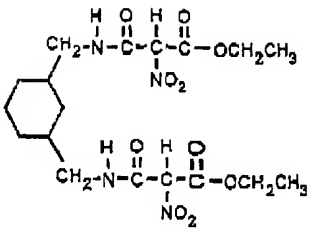
~~where X and Y are chosen so that the molecular weight of the polyneopentyl glycol adipate diisophorone terminated isocyante structure is approximately 1350~~.

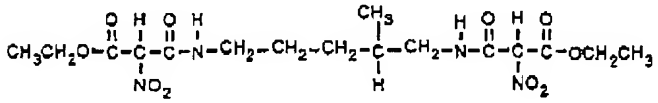
Claim 20 (currently amended): The compound of claim 1 wherein R is derived from an aromatic or aliphatic residue of an isocyanate, ~~or~~ diisocyanate or triisocyanate compound selected from the group consisting of 4,4'-methylenebis(phenyl isocyanate) ("MDI"); hydrogenated MDI; isophorone diisocyanate ("IPDI"), 1-(1-isocyanato-1-methyl ethyl)-3-(1-methyl ethenyl)benzene("m-TMI"), isophorone ~~and~~ triisocyanate, ~~isophorene,~~ and tetramethylenexylenediisocyanate.

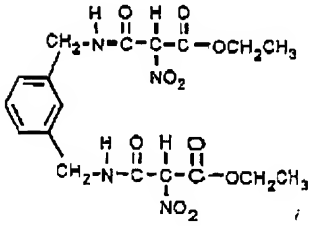
Claim 21 (previously presented): The compound of claim 1 where R is C_{3-17} alkyl.

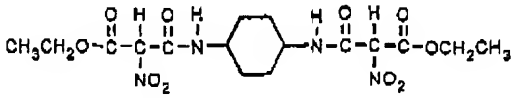
Claim 22 (previously presented): A compound selected from the group consisting of:

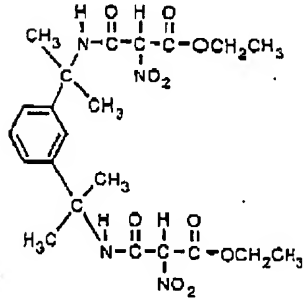


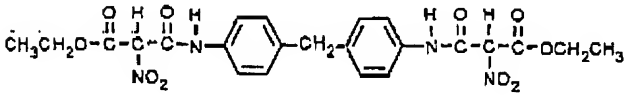












Claim 23 (currently amended): A process for the generation of a nitrile oxide precursor compound comprising the steps of

a) generating a potassium enolate of ethyl nitroacetate in situ;

b) isolating said enolate; and

c) adding to said isolated enolate an isocyanate, diisocyanate or polyisocyanate material <u>in a polar aprotic solvent</u>.

Claim 24 (canceled)

Claim 25 (currently amended): The process of Claim 24 wherein the polar solvent is selected from the group consisting of diglyme, monoglyme, glyme, ~~THF, DMF and DMSO~~ <u>tetrahydrofuran, dimethylformamide and dimethylsulfoxide</u>.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A process for crosslinking a polymer composition comprising adding the compound of claim 1 to a ~~polymer~~ solution of a polymer comprises one or more pendant or terminal functional groups selected from the group consisting of alkenes, alkynes, nitriles and isocyanates and heating the mixture to form a nitrile oxide in situ and a crosslinked polymer.

Claim 27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (previously presented): A urethane composition which is stable to temperatures below 120°C comprising the compound of claim 1.

Claim 29 (previously presented): A pressure sensitive adhesive, reactive hot melt adhesive, polyurethane dispersion, thermosetting adhesive, thermoplastic adhesive or coating comprising the compound of claim 1.

Claim 30 (currently amended): An AB copolymer where A comprises a compound of claim 19 which is derived from 1-(1-isocyanato-1-methyl ethyl)-3-(1-methyl ethenyl)benzene ("m-TMI") and B is ~~a~~ an unsaturated compound ~~with olefinic functionality~~.

Claim 31 (previously presented): A polyurethane reactive hot melt adhesive comprising a compound of claim 1.